

Congress that would produce greater deficit reduction than H.R. 1158, cutting even more in fiscal year 1995 spending than is included in H.R. 1158. But the spending reductions would come out of unnecessary projects and other spending, not investments in working families.

My position on this legislation has been made clear throughout the legislative process. The Administration strongly and consistently opposed the House version of the bill because it would have unnecessarily cut valuable, proven programs that educate our children, invest in our future, and protect the health and safety of the American people. We worked closely with the bipartisan leadership of the Senate to improve the bill, and I indicated my approval of those improvements. Regrettably, the conference went well beyond the spending reductions contained in the bipartisan compromise despite my Administration's consistent urging to adhere to the Senate bipartisan leadership amendment.

In addition, I continue to object to language that would override existing environmental laws in an effort to increase timber salvage. Increasing timber salvage and improving forest health are goals that my Administration shares with the Congress. Over the last 6 months, my Administration has put in motion administrative reforms that are speeding salvage timber sales in full compliance with existing environmental laws. It is not appropriate to use this legislation to overturn environmental laws. Therefore, I urge the Congress to delete this language and, separately, to work with my Administration on an initiative to increase timber salvage and improve forest health.

My Administration has provided the Congress with changes that would enable me to sign revised legislation. I urge the Congress to approve a bill that contains the supplemental funding included in H.R. 1158—for disaster relief activities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the Federal response to the bombing in Oklahoma City, for increased antiterrorism efforts, and for providing debt relief to Jordan in order to contribute to further progress toward a Middle East peace settlement—along with my Administration's alternative restorations and offsets.

I will sign legislation that provides these needed supplemental appropriations and that reduces the deficit by at least as much as this bill. However, the legislation must reflect the priorities of the American people. H.R. 1158, as passed, clearly does not.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 7, 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the journal, and the veto message and the bill will be printed as a House document.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the message of

the President, together with the accompanying bill, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. OBEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to object, but I would simply use this reservation to ask the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana what the intention of the committee would be with respect to the disposition of the president's veto message.

Do we intend to take this up for a vote or, if you do not, do you intend that there would be a new bill? If so, what do you think the timing would be and what would be your intention with respect to trying to work out a compromise accommodation?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am making this unanimous consent request to refer the veto message of the president on H.R. 1158 to the Committee on Appropriations so that, basically, we can terminate discussion on this bill and get it behind us.

Frankly, sending the bill to the committee, it will help us clear the air so we can see if there might be a way we can reach an agreement on a different approach that will satisfy the president. There is no point in proceeding further on H.R. 1158. I do not believe that the votes are present to override the veto. I am disappointed that we have reached this point because I believe it is a good bill. Frankly, I wish the president had signed it. I think he would have been better served had he done so. But he has decided to veto it.

Now, we need to spend our time productively on fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills, not by continuing to argue about the merits and faults of this bill. So I would hope that the gentleman would not object and that we can send this message to committee, and we can go ahead and confer with the representatives of the White House in hopes that we might come up with an alternative agreement.

Mr. OBEY. Continuing my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that I do not necessarily share the gentleman's judgment about the wisdom of the president's veto. I think under the circumstances it was correct. But I do hope that we will be able to get together and work out a rational compromise so that we can proceed to the regular appropriations process without too much delay intervening.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the gentleman has summarized my own feelings in that the sooner we get to a final settlement of this matter, the better. Every day that goes by, the American taxpayer loses some \$25 million in savings. That is one estimate that I have seen. The fact is that the

bureaucracy continues to spend money. And if we are going to reap anything near the \$9.2 billion in savings that this bill gave us, we need to reach a conclusion, reach an agreement with the White House as expeditiously as possible.

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But we would expect that the leadership of both sides of the aisle in the House would work with both sides of the aisle on the other side of this Congress and work in turn with the White House and develop a new bill, hopefully within the next few days.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I would simply say that I hope that next time around, we can find reductions that do not in fact attack programs for seniors and children in order to provide tax increases for very high income people that we cannot afford under these circumstances.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. The gentleman's characterization of the bill is not my own. I would only say that when one attempts to downsize Government, nobody is going to be completely satisfied, but of course the purpose in referring this message to committee and then developing another bill is to come up with a compromise which is satisfactory to a majority of the House, a majority of the Senate, and one that will gain the President's signature, and doing all that will take compromise.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I hope in any bill that can be produced, we can protect the Brewster amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. WALKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the veto message of the President to H.R. 1158, and that I might include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

#### CLEANER WATER

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend her remarks, and to include extraneous matter.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, last week the Santa Maria Times, a local newspaper in my district on the central coast of California, let the Sun shine on some of the arguments big government groups and the Clinton administration had made against our clean